Claims

1. An apparatus for use in an assay process comprising:-

a pre-incubation chamber defining a plurality of wells, the wells having a porous base; and

a housing carrying a porous membrane disposed above and touching a body of absorbent material, and

wherein a pattern of capture analyte is carried on the porous membrane further including means for locating the pre-incubation chamber on top of the housing such that capture analyte is disposed under the base of the wells of the pre-incubation chamber.

2. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the housing is separate from the pre-incubation chamber.

3. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the housing is attached to the pre-incubation chamber in an arrangement in which the porous bases of the wells may be moved towards and away from the membrane.

4. An apparatus as claimed in claim 2 wherein the separate housing defines a rectangular frame in which the membrane and body of absorbent material locate and the membrane is also rectangular and is substantially the same size and shape as the frame so that the when inserted in the frame, the location of the frame defines the location of the membrane.

5. An apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the capture analyte is deposited in strips, in lines or in an array of dots, on the porous membrane by printing.

6. An apparatus as claimed in claim 5 wherein each strip, comprises several closely spaced lines of different capture analytes so that, in use, each well can be used to test for several reagents simultaneously.

7. An apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the porous base comprises a frit or porous plug. which depends below the underside of the pre-incubation chamber.

8. An apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 2 or 7 to 4 when dependent on claim 2 wherein means for locating the pre-incubation chamber on top of the housing are provided said means comprising pins depending from the underside of corners of the pre-incubation chamber and holes defined in corners of the housing.